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Did Mr. Hoover call the World as his manager or did some one pitch it on him?

The Republicans still muddy the waters with investigations in order to escape outlining a policy.

It is hard to say what is doing the Hoover boom the greater harm, his silence or the World's effort to do his talking for him.

If the World picks out the candidate for the Republicans, and Mr. Hay's committee writes the platform in advance, the national convention will be a quiet affair.

Representative Mondell is away off on most public questions, but he sure did hit the bull's eye when he spoke out against universal military training. He said something then.

Governor Edwards has not yet heard that thirty-three states (almost two-thirds), are already dry by their own choice. Mr. Edwards is New Jersey's new governor and says that 100,000,000 people have had prohibition imposed upon them.

Well, the cartoons of Uncle Sam, now going the rounds of the liquor controlled press in Great Britain are no worse than the attacks the same interests made on prohibition in this country—and still prohibition triumphed in the United States.

It will be noticed that three stout strings were attached to the Hoover hat when the World threw it into the ring—the "Historical Democracy" string, the "Liberal Progressivism" string and the "Hoover Record." The hat can't be blown away by any sudden gusts of radical wind.

"GABRIEL" EDWARDS

So Governor Edwards aspires to be the Angel Gabriel, does he? Well, "Gabriel" Edwards will never know anything about the horn that Gabriel is expected to blow. It will be quite a different HORN from those with which the governor's followers, are intimately acquainted with. Governor Edwards may visit a graveyard, but he won't carry any Gabriel's trumpets with him,

SECRETARY MEREDITH

The President has made the very best selection possible in putting Mr. Meredith at the head of the Department of Agriculture. He comes from Iowa, ONE of the best, if not the best, agricultural state in the union. As the owner of Successful Farming, he has for many years been in close touch with all that affects the farmer. He is a man of high character and unusual ability. He is fundamentally democratic; he is progressive; he is courageous. His sympathies are with the people, and he is just old enough to have the wisdom that comes with years and yet not old enough to have lost the vigor and energy of youth. His public utterances show that he has studied the situation and is alive to the evils of profiteering. He is in the fight for the people. Strength to his arm.

W. J. BRYAN.

Mr. Bryan Discusses Political Situation

(From the Asheville, N. C., Citizen, Jan. 30.)

In an interview regarding the public men and Democratic candidates he criticised, Col. Bryan also took occasion to place himself in the list of those who are not seeking the Democratic nomination for President.

His statement is as follows:

"My criticism of Edwards and Cummings has brought upon me the charge that I am making a wholesale attack on public men with a view of being a candidate myself.

"First, as to the attack on candidates. It is now thirty years since I entered congress and nearly twenty-four years since my first nomination for the presidency. My political activities therefore, cover nearly a quarter of a century. During that time I have criticised only a few men and have seldom answered criticism, although I have been the recipient of as much criticism as any other man in public life. My fight has always been for principles and I have only mentioned men when they assume a position which made them a menace to what I believed to be the public interest.

"I criticised President Cleveland, not personally, but because of his attitude on the money question, and in that view I had the support of the Democratic party, which refused to indorse his second administration.

"I opposed the nomination of Judge Parker in 1908. It was not a personal criticism, but opposition to the forces behind him. He was nominated and defeated, falling a million and a quarter behind the Democratic vote in both the preceding and succeeding campaigns.

"In 1912 I opposed Judge Parker for chairman of the Baltimore convention. It was not a personal criticism, but I felt that his attitude on public questions and his political record made him an unfit man to sound the keynote of a progressive convention.

"In that convention I changed from Clark to Wilson because New York was attempting to select the candidate. I did not criticise Mr. Clark. I stated when I voted for Wilson that I would change my vote from him to some other candidate if New York voted for him. This ought to be sufficient proof that it was not a personal opposition to Clark.

"I believed then and still believe that the candidate of the Baltimore convention, whoever he might have been, would have been defeated if New York had been permitted to select him.

In the present campaign Governor Edwards is the only candidate I have criticised and my criticism of him is not personal. I do not know the man and have been able to form no opinion of him personally.

"In the case of other candidates I have simply inquired as to their position on public questions and deferred discussion of them until they announced their views.

"EDWARDS' VIEWS KNOWN"

"But Governor Edwards' views are known. He lives in one of the three states that have not ratified the prohibition amendment. He is a wet, a soaking wet—not personally, for I do not know whether he is a total abstainer or a drinker, but he is against prohibition, and that means he is in favor of bringing saloons back to the United States. The papers have quoted him as promising to make New Jersey as wet as the Atlantic ocean, and since the campaign he has announced his intention of preventing the enforcement of the amendment in his state if possible."

"Can any Democrat be indifferent to the injection of such a candidacy into our campaign? Three-fourths of the Democratic senators voted for submitting the prohibition amendment and more than three-fourths of the Democratic members of the house voted for it. Every Democratic state ratified it. It is an insult to the Democratic party for any man to ask it to defy the conscience of the United States and the expressed wishes of the party and make itself the champion of an outlawed business.

"I criticised Chairman Cummings not personally but because as a Democratic official he attended Governor Edwards' coming-out party and gave respectability to the Edwards' boom.

"So much for my attacks on public men. Now for the second proposition. I have repeatedly

stated that I am not a candidate. Do I act like a candidate? Candidates are very careful not to disturb the harmony of the party or to arouse opposition. A candidate usually sits on a stool and looks pleasant so that everybody will like him, hence it is necessary that some men in public life shall be free to speak for the public without being afraid of hurting themselves. No other Democrat is under so great an obligation as I am to speak out on men and on policies, because no other Democrat has received such favors as I have. No other Democrat now living has carried the party standard in three campaigns or enjoyed the confidence of so many Democrats for so long a time.

"Nobody is in a better position than I am to speak out against any man whose candidacy threatens the country's welfare and against any principle or policy which seems hostile to the country's interests. I have so many enemies that a few more don't count. And I have been in politics long enough to expect abuse from two sources—

"First, from the papers that openly champion the predatory interests.

"Second, from those papers less courageous that promptly attack any public man who criticises the predatory interests.

"The first class represents the big dog that does the fighting, and the second class represents the little dogs that do the best they can to help the predatory interests without running any unnecessary risks. Just now the liquor traffic is the greatest as well as the most contemptible of the predatory interests, and the friends of prohibition have to meet the abuse of the open champions of the traffic and also vilification at the hands of that part of the press which does not dare to support openly the liquor business, but is bold enough to attack anyone who attempts to protect society from it."

"LETTING THE CAT OUT"

Mr. Louis Seibold, the leading political writer on the New York World staff, has been "feeling out" the sentiment in Washington and has located the Hoover vein. He says:

"The two outstanding impressions that members of Congress and political leaders obtain from the advices regarding the Hoover movement are:

"Independent Republicans, convinced that the boss-controlled machine of that party is unalterably opposed to the nomination by it of a man of Mr. Hoover's type, are beginning to urge the organization of a new party.

"Democrats who do not want to see their party stampeded by William Jennings Bryan, or fall into the hands of extreme radicals, are beginning to perceive in Mr. Hoover an agent through which it may be saved from complete demoralization."

The World is afraid the RADICALS may control the Democratic party. Mr. Hoover is thus presented as a cure for radicalism. "Historical" democratism will soon be defined as conservatism or Wall streetism.

On another page will be found a statement compiled by the National City bank showing an increase in the world's debts of 160 billions between 1914 and 1920—400 per cent increase in six years, and yet there are Americans who want the United States to spend nearly a billion a year for universal military training.

SIMS SHOULD BE DISCHARGED

Obedience is the first law in the army and navy. The President is commander-in-chief and acts through the secretary of each department in giving commands. Rear Admiral Sims was guilty of more than insubordination; he tried to injure his nation by disclosing instructions which, if they had been given, were of the most confidential nature. He revolts against his commander-in-chief and does it for the lowest and most despicable of motives, viz., vanity, jealousy and revenge. It is no credit to Republican leaders that they condone so serious an offense in the hope of making party capital out of it. The question of discipline is not partisan. If the situation were reversed the Republicans could not find language severe enough to characterize the injection of politics into such a case. Sims should be dishonorably discharged as a warning to future officers.

W. J. BRYAN.